

June 9, 2018

Governor Kim Reynolds
c/o Meaghan O'Brien
Office of the Governor
1007 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Governor Kim Reynolds,

I am writing in support of Jason Besler's candidacy for the 6th judicial district vacancy. In my judgment Jason's temperament, skills, and commitment to a limited role for judges in our system makes him ideally suited in serving the community in the 6th judicial district as a judge. It is my hope you appoint Jason Besler to the bench in the 6th judicial district.

I have known Jason since 2002 due to our activities working for candidates within the Republican Party and working on behalf of social conservative ideals. I was impressed in meeting Jason with his unflappable demeanor and the fact he often was the one calming down rather tense situations. Regardless of the situation it was Jason working to calm tensions keeping people focused on the main objectives rather than personalities. Throughout the years I have noted Jason's demeanor is very consistent and though he passionately cares about the rule of law, the limited role of the judiciary in our society, and conservative ideas he always expresses himself in a calm, reasoned, and dispassionate manner. I believe this approach would allow him to insure that the rule of law is enforced, his courtroom is orderly, and that all sides have a fair opportunity to present their case under the law and the particular facts of that case. I believe his great temperament would be a definite asset to the bench.

Jason also has certain skills that I believe will be an asset to the 6th judicial district. Jason has a fine analytical mind that will aid him in assessing cases and coming to the right conclusion under the law. Jason has served the people of Linn County in the County Attorney's office for several years. In this role he has been required to assess cases, make judgments, and explain his decisions. He is also able to reconsider his position when presented new facts, but once he makes a decision absent the presentation of new facts has the strength of backbone to stand by his decision. All of these skills will aid him in serving as a judge in the 6th judicial district. Also in my personal interaction I have seen these skills on display and have no doubt that he would ably apply these skills as a judge insuring the law is applied as it was meant to be, everyone gets a fair trial that appears in front of him, and insuring that parties are getting timely decisions in their cases too. Jason's skills will be an asset to the bench.

Jason has a strong commitment to the rule of law, an appropriately limited role for the judiciary, and an ability to maintain that strong commitment in spite of any pressures there may be to change. Jason knows what he believes and has maintained those beliefs in, at times, a hostile environment to his beliefs and values. I have no doubt that being appointed to the bench will not change Jason and he will be able to maintain who he is and what he believes

always remembering it is not his job to be a policy maker but rather to apply the law as it was meant to be applied to the particular facts of the case. As long as I have known Jason he has passionately articulated the reasons why he believes it is so vital that judges do not go beyond their role in our system of government. He understands that judges that go beyond their role undermine confidence in our legal system, take power away from the people where it belongs, and far too often become participants in the dispute rather than being a neutral third party enforcing the rules and making certain everyone is getting a fair trial. Jason's strong commitment to the limited and important role judges are meant to play in our system will be an asset to the bench.

In my judgment Jason Besler would be an asset to the bench when appointed to the 6th judicial district vacancy. I believe his temperament, skills, and commitment to a limited role for judges in our system make him ideally suited to become a judge in the 6th judicial district. I wholeheartedly support Jason Besler for this appointment and encourage you to appoint him to fill the vacancy in the 6th judicial district. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding this letter of support.

Sincerely,



Steve Scheffler